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received bill of health of this office: July 11, steamship *Chaucer*, British, for New York.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Plague in Hongkong.

HONGKONG, June 14, 1899.

SIR: On April 11 I cabled the Department as follows: "CRIDLER, *Washington*: Plague.—WILDMAN." At which time the plague had reached the weekly death rate of 100 and has continued at the same average rate to the present time. I had been hoping with everyone in the city that insomuch as this was the offyear, and every precaution had been taken to guard against its recurrence, that it would not be necessary to frighten the people of the United States by this cablegram, as so many had brothers and husbands in the Philippines.

I am informed by Dr. W. M. S. Beede, the consular surgeon who has for the last two years been experimenting with plague cases in the hospitals, that the presence of plague in Hongkong is due to its proximity to the mainland of China, over which the local sanitary board has no jurisdiction. The plague is entirely confined to the native population, and never attacks Europeans unless they injudiciously expose themselves, as it is always conveyed by direct infection. As an instance of this, my interpreter's maid servant, who lives in a clean, roomy, ventilated house, died this week within thirty hours, of plague, while Mr. Chin's little boy, who went with her everywhere (but wore shoes), escaped.

I am inclosing for the consideration of the proper authorities an account of a special meeting of the sanitary board to discuss the plague question, that I trust may be of value.

Respectfully, yours,

ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN,
United States Consul-General.

The honorable the ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

COSTA RICA.

Sanitary report from Punta Arenas.

UNITED STATES CONSULAR AGENCY,
Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, July 24, 1899.

SIR: In accordance with instructions received from the Department of State, to advise you of the existence of yellow fever at this port, I beg to make the following report: I have applied to the medical officer of this port in search of information on this subject, and have been informed that no yellow fever exists here at the present moment. The prevailing disease here is malarial fever, and during the last month there have been 8 cases, 3 of which have proved fatal. From the same source I have the information that the cases which proved fatal were due to want of medical attendance at the proper time, they being persons brought in from the surrounding country who had fever five or six days before being brought to town for treatment. Another medical